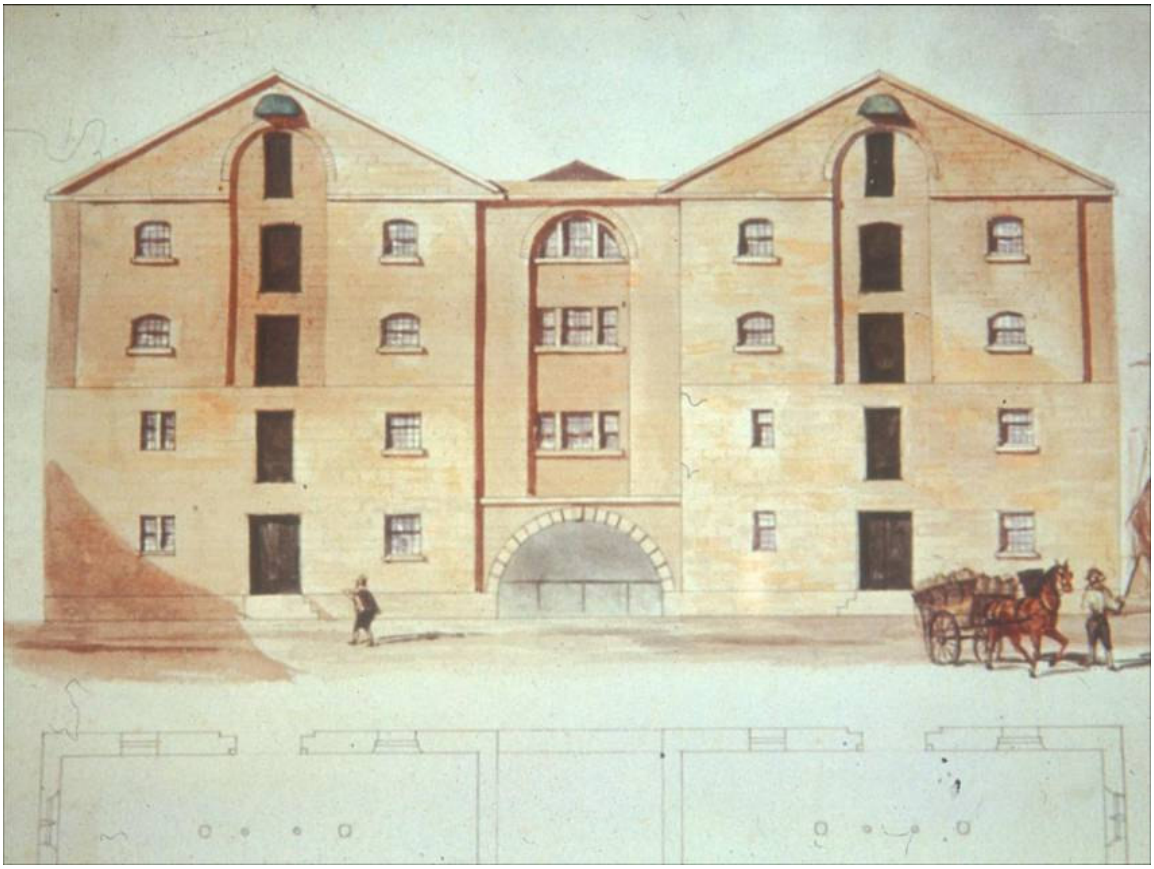
British Waterways

# STATE OF THE WATERWAYS' HERITAGE 2007/08



**HEAD OF HERITAGE**

**JULY 2008**

# Key Finding

2007/08 saw continued improvements in safeguarding the waterways heritage. By April 2008 all nine BW waterway business units employed a heritage manager and/or a heritage adviser. Only five minor incidents of non-compliance were recorded in 2007/08 and all were resolved without action by the regulators. Heritage asset data continued to be enhanced throughout the year. Buildings at Risk numbers were reduced and good quality work was carried out to numbers of designated and non-designated heritage structures across the BW network. Between September 2007 and May 2008 a British Waterways Advisory Forum heritage sub-group was established to assist BW with its heritage management activity.

*Cover photograph: Navigation Warehouse, Wakefield, in an early 19th Century watercolour.*

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# Introduction

The State of the Waterways Heritage report 2007/08 is a snapshot of BW's heritage management activities in the past year. The report measures change and charts BW's progress towards the achievement of its broad corporate goals for heritage. These are:

- Better understanding and awareness of heritage throughout BW
- 100% compliance with statutory and in-house standards
- Continuing reduction of Buildings at Risk
- All business units achieving a good or excellent grade for heritage

BW's heritage goals accord with the policies of the two UK Governments and in particular reflect two of the three areas for Government priority in England and Wales contained in Defra's 'Strategic Steer' for BW (February 2008). These are:

- Maintaining the network in satisfactory order
- Delivering a range of additional public benefits

The State of the Waterways Heritage report updates the 2006/07 document and reflects the ongoing work of BW's business units and other departments in securing the waterways heritage.

*BW heritage advisers at Lune Aqueduct, Lancaster, December 2007.*

# Key Findings 2007/08

- Cause for concern.
- Requiring attention.
- Making progress.

## *Management*

- Compliance is improving; there were only 5 incidents of non-compliance in 2007/08.
- Building at Risk numbers were reduced from 58 in 2006/07 to 43 in 2007/08.
- All nine business units employ a heritage manager and/or a heritage adviser.
- A revised Heritage Policy and a new Heritage Management Direction were published in 2007/08.
- All nine business units have an up to date Heritage Action Plan.

## *Training*

- Levels of practical training increased slightly over 2006/07.
- All nine business units delivered some heritage awareness/compliance training to staff.

## *Property*

- A revised Property Development & Disposal operating instruction incorporating heritage considerations was produced in 2007/08.
- Heritage assessments were carried out for all property disposals.

## *Publicity*

- Internal and external publicity for heritage was generally positive in 2007/08.

## *Pressures*

- Issues related to balancing minimum safety standards with heritage was a negative.
- Growing awareness (internal and external) of the value of heritage to BW was a positive.

# Essential Data

## *Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments*

2007/08 data shows a reduction in the number of listed buildings owned by BW; down by 36, from 2,792 in 2006/07 to 2,756 in 2007/08. But BW remains the owner of the third largest assembly of listed buildings in the UK. Scheduled monument numbers have increased by 6; up from 45 in 2006/07 to 51 in 2007/08.

| | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No.Scheduled Monuments** | 0 | 7 | 6 | 4 canals - 42 scheduled lengths | 4 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 51 |
| Changes 06/07 | 0 | +3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | +4 | 0 | 0 | +6 |
| **No.Grade I / A Listed Buildings** | 0 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 21 |
| **No. Grade II* / B Listed Buildings** | 3 | 1 | 2 | 35 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 10 | 75 |
| **No. Grade II / C Listed Buildings** | 131 | 52 | 535 | 65 | 276 | 165 | 524 | 586 | 326 | 2660 |
| **Total Listed Buildings 2007/08** | 134 | 57 | 540 | 106 | 278 | 172 | 536 | 593 | 340 | 2756 |
| Changes 06/07 | 0 | -10 | 0 | +69 | -101 | +1 | +4 | +1 | 0 | -36 |

***Table 1. Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings***

The more accurate numbers are due to better management of data on BW's estate and reporting by dedicated heritage advisers, assisted by GIS colleagues at the waterway business units.

*A Grade II listed roving bridge on the BCN at Bromford Junction, repaired in 2007.*

Chart 1 shows the condition of listed buildings recorded on BW's Asset Management system. These include operational structures like locks, bridges and aqueducts. Other types of listed building, e.g. mileposts and cottages are not included. The chart shows that the majority of listed assets recorded are in Fair, Good, or Very Good condition. Over 300 listed assets are in Poor or Bad condition, although these are not necessarily the same buildings and structures that appear on local authority Buildings at Risk registers.

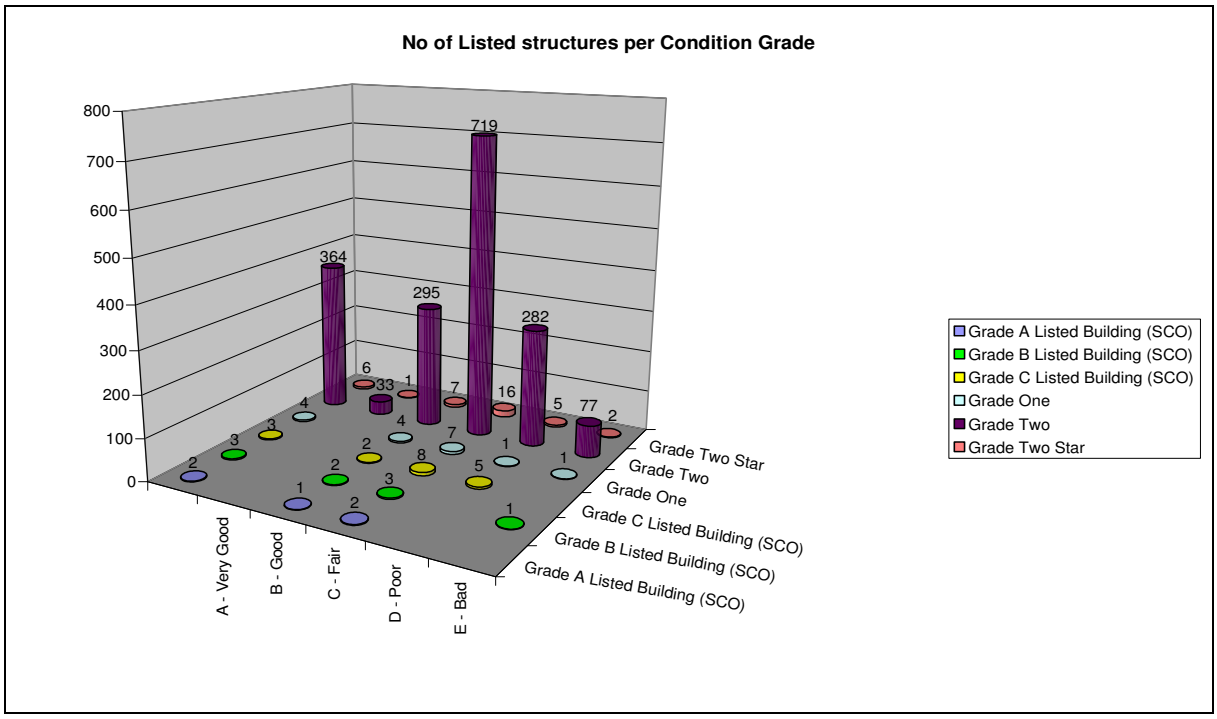



***Chart 1. Condition grades of Listed core waterway structures at the end of 2007/08.***

Managing and maintaining BW's historic network is a continuous task; over £100 million was spent on major works and repairs in 2007/08. Incidental pressures add to the task; e.g. the past year has seen an apparent increase in the incidence of bridge bashing by motor vehicles.

One solution is to engage with the local Highways authority and in 2007/08 BW North West, along with the Lancaster Canal Trust and other supporters successfully lobbied Cumbria County Council to install traffic calming measures at Crooklands Bridge, a listed building that is frequently struck and damaged by road traffic. Three further bridges on the Lancaster Canal are being put forward for similar treatment in 2008/09.

Looking ahead, the Draft Heritage Protection Bill (April 2008) provides for establishing heritage partnership agreements between local authorities, statutory agencies and owners of designated heritage assets. HPAs should permit a more holistic and self-regulatory approach to managing and maintaining heritage assets and BW has developed pilot HPAs for Foxton Locks, the Lancaster Canal and the Pocklington Canal.

## *Conservation Areas*

The number of conservation areas affecting BW increased in 2007/08, with five waterway business units reporting new or newly discovered additions.

| | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. Waterways designated as linear CA's** | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 16 |
| **Total length designated as CA (in kms)** | 22.6 | 43.4 | 17.7 | 7.3 | 98 | 0 | 211 | 211 | 25.7 | 636.7 |
| **No. other CA's covering sections of Waterway** | 27 | 34 | 49 | 8 | 23 | 36 | 13 | 48 | 38 | 276 |
| **No. CA Appraisals available** | 0 | 28 | Not known | 3 | 5 | 30 | 6 | 32 | Not known | 104 |
| **Total no. of CA's** | 28 | 35 | 52 | 9 | 25 | 36 | 16 | 52 | 39 | 292 |
| **Total no.changes 06/07** | +1 | +2 | +7 | 0 | +7 | 0 | +3 | 0 | 0 | +29 |

***Table 2. Conservation Areas***

The total length of linear conservation areas currently stands at 636.7km; up from 489km in 2006/07. The total numbers of all conservation areas (linear and settlement based) is 292, an increase of 29 from 2006/07.

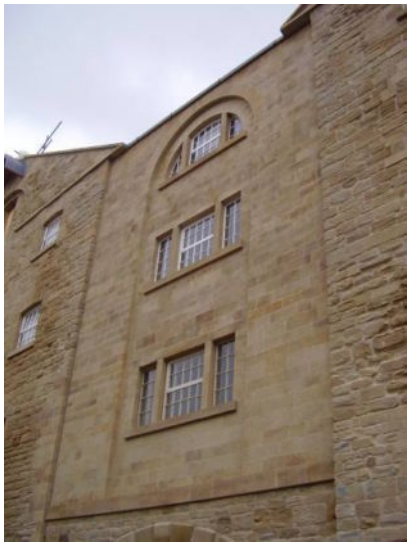
The number of conservation area appraisals (which analyse the significance of an area of special architectural or historic interest) also rose; in 2005/06 27 were known to be available, rising to 74 in 2006/07 and 104 in 2007/08. This rise is attributable to local authorities catching up with national guidance on the preparation of appraisals that can be adopted as supplementary planning guidance and form part of local development frameworks.

*Foxton Locks Conservation Area, Leicestershire. A heritage partnership agreement has been prepared for this site.*

## *Buildings at Risk*

BW is systematically reducing its Buildings at Risk numbers from both national and UK local authority registers. Of the two Buildings at Risk on the national English Heritage register, English Heritage confirmed in 2007 that Foxton Inclined Plane would be removed from 'at risk' registration. Following successful repairs to Navigation Warehouse, Wakefield in 2007/08 confirmation has also been given that this important building will be removed entirely from the English Heritage register once it is fully occupied later in 2008/09.

In Scotland, two BW owned Buildings at Risk remain on the Scottish Civic Trust register (which is maintained on behalf of Historic Scotland). These are Lambhill Stables and Craigmarloch Stables. Both have potential for new uses and BW Scotland plans to lease Lambhill Stables for development as a community facility.



*Navigation Warehouse, Wakefield, which has undergone major conservation-led repairs in 2007/08.*

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. on EH/Scottish Civic Trust list** | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| **No. on Local Authority BaR list** | **A/1** | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| | **B/2** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | **C/3** | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 24 |
| | **D/4** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| | **E/5** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | **F/6** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | **G/7** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total on LA lists** | | **0** | **0** | **13** | **0** | **0** | **3** | **16** | **6** | **5** | **43** |

***Table 3. Buildings at Risk***

Local authority Buildings at Risk numbers have been steadily reducing; down from 125 in 2004/05 to 99 in 2005/06, 58 in 2006/07 and 43 in 2007/08. Most local authority Buildings at Risk registers operate on a system where grades 5, 6 and 7 are not viewed as being critically 'at risk' and grade 4 is usually reserved for 'unoccupied' buildings. BW currently has 34 Buildings at Risk in grades 1-3 and it continues to find ways to repair or 'conservation manage' these.

*Lambhill Stables, Forth & Clyde Canal; a Scottish Building at Risk for which a new use has recently been found.*

Relationships with local authorities continue to be positive and in 2007/08 as in 2006/07, there were no urgent works notices served upon BW in connection with repairs to Buildings at Risk.

Going forward, there is scope for developing management or heritage partnership agreements to support the managed maintenance of Buildings at Risk for which there is no immediate solution. Tewitfield Locks on the Lancaster Canal, for example, is a Building at Risk on the currently disused Northern section of the canal. Although it has no gates the lock flight is in remarkably good condition and guidelines for its ongoing management are contained in the Lancaster Canal Heritage Partnership Agreement that has been developed by BW's North West business unit and is in the process of being ratified by English Heritage and the local authorities.

## *Other Designations*

In 2007/08 the number of registered historic parks and gardens (e.g. Cassiobury, Newby Hall) affecting BW's estate increased from 24 to 33 and the number of registered historic battlefields (e.g. Nantwich, Cropedy, Bosworth) also increased from eight to 14. UNESCO World Heritage Sites that affect BW's estate remain at four (Saltaire, Bath, Blaenavon, Liverpool). In January 2008 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and its adjoining sections of the Llangollen Canal in England and Wales was nominated by the Government as a World Heritage Site candidate and the assessment process is now under way with a final decision expected in July 2009.

In 2007/08 as in previous years, most local authorities appear not to have developed or maintain local lists, but where these exist they were recorded.

| | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. registered historic parks & gardens adjacent to canals** | 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 33 |
| **No. registered historic battlefields adjacent to canals** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 |
| **No. locally listed buildings (non-statutory)** | 1 | Not known | Not known | 0 | Not known | Not known | 6 | 37 | Not known | 44 |
| **No. World Heritage Sites** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |

***Table 4. Other designations***

*Pontcysyllte Aqueduct has been nominated for World Heritage Site inscription.*

# Compliance

100% legal compliance with the provisions of the UK heritage protection system is a BW corporate objective. This means complying with statutory consents, conditions and clearances relating to listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas.

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Consent granted | SM's | 0 | 8 | 0 | 26 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 |
| | LB's | 31 | 17 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 17 | 29 | 140 |
| | | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 25 | 1 | 51 |
| | CA's | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 31 | 26 | 13 | 26 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 19 | 29 | 190 |
| | | 3 | 2 | 6 | 32 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 25 | 1 | 87 |
| Clearance granted | SM's | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| | LB's | 55 | 6 | 30 | 0 | 26 | 28 | 51 | 190 | 3 | 389 |
| | CA's | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| | Total | 58 | 8 | 31 | 0 | 26 | 40 | 54 | 190 | 3 | 410 |
| **No consent or clearance** | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 Decision pending | 0 | 6 Decis'n pending | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| **Consent refused (SMC, LBC or CAC)** | | 0 | 0 | 2 Appeal underway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

***Table 5. Works to Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (results for 2007/08 with consents for 2006/07 in highlighted rows).***

Scotland (which has 4 scheduled canals) continues to make a high level of SMC applications, although numbers are down from 2006/07. Overall, the considerable increase of listed building consents (up by 103 year on year) is due to BW's minimum safety standards campaign and the need to fix warning signs and install lock ladders, bollards and handrails in the historic environment. The corresponding rise in clearances, up from 132 in 2006/07 to 410 in 2007/08 is for the same reason, and reflects BW's efforts to maintain an exemplary compliance record for heritage.

Compliance also relates to archaeological recording, which may be a condition of scheduled monument or listed building consent, or else may be a required condition of planning permission for developments in the historic environment.

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **No. archaeological searches** | | 4 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 33 |
| **No. planning permissions granted with archaeological conditions** | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| **Archaeo -logical works** | **Desk-based assessments** | 4 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 56 |
| | **Evaluations** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | **Watching briefs** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | **Surveys/recordings** | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| | **Excavations** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

***Table 6. Archaeological recording***

In 2007/08 archaeological activity increased, with 56 desk-based assessments being prepared (against 11 in 2006/07) although the number of watching briefs fell from 8 to 5 in 2007/08. Surveys and recordings (generally of standing buildings) were up at 21 in 2007/08 as against 9 in 2006/07, but no excavations took place in the course of the year.

The number of planning permissions granted with archaeological conditions rose from 2 in 2006/07 to 29 in 2007/08, with 26 of these being in Scotland and coinciding with the appointment of a jointly funded BW/Historic Scotland senior heritage adviser.

*An original timber lock cill archaeologically recorded on the scheduled monument at Caen Hill, Kennet & Avon Canal.*

# Funding

Funding for heritage-related activity was £3,181,600 in 2007/08 as against £4,815,000 in 006/07 but exceeding the figure of £2,709,200 for 2005/06.

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks | BW TOTAL £'s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Grants awarded in 2007/08** | **Total value in £'s** | 0 | 0 | 440,000 | 690,000 | 7,000 | 0 | 245,600 | 1,792,000 | 7,000 | 3,181,600 |
| | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70,000 | 20,000 | 0 | 1,325,000 | 3,300,000 | 100,000 | 4,815,000 |
| | **No. schemes** | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 14 |

***Table 7. Heritage related funding (results for 2007/08 with grants for 2006/07 in highlighted rows)***

In 2007/08 grants were awarded for a number of distinctive projects, e.g. £50k for Whaley Bridge transhipment warehouse, £275k for Bugsworth visitor centre, £690k (awarded by a housebuilder) for restoring Reddingmuirhead Wharf in Scotland, a £75k Buildings at Risk grant from North Shropshire District Council for Ellesmere Yard and £45k from HLF for project planning for the Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site. The West Midlands figure of £1,792,000 includes £904k for towpath improvements and repairs to historic paving, £260k for refurbishment of listed bridges at Bromford Junction, £25k for graffiti removal and £10k for a new tail-bridge at listed Lock 17 on the Birmingham Canal Main Line.

*Whaley Bridge Transhipment Warehouse received a grant in 2007/08.*

# Staffing &Training

In 2005/06 only four out of ten waterway business units employed a heritage adviser; in 2006/07 the number of business units reduced to nine and six business units employed heritage advisers by the year's end. In 2007/08 eight out of nine business units employed a heritage adviser and one employed a consultant on a part-time basis and a heritage & environment manager who specialised in heritage. The senior heritage adviser post in Scotland, new in 2007/08 is co-funded by Historic Scotland.

*Lizey Turner, West Midlands heritage adviser, on the BCN*

In 2007/08, 83 days were devoted to heritage awareness and practical skills training with 434 staff attending. North West and West Midlands business units trained the most staff; 109 and 129 respectively. Training concentrated for the most part on raising awareness of legislation (team/tool box talks) and on use of lime mortars (live site/yard based practical training sessions).

*Live site heritage conservation training on the Macclesfield Canal.*

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Heritage training (days) | **Live-site practical** | 2<br>Lime mortar Construction Team N | 1<br>Lime mortar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3<br>Lime mortars Stone repair | 5<br>Lime mortars Stone repair | 14<br>Lime Brick | 0 |
| | **BW yard practical** | 3<br>Lime mortar Construction Team S. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1<br>Heritage & engineering | 0 | 1<br>Stone | 2<br>Lime mortar |
| | **External practical** | 0 | 1<br>5 bank/2 engineer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5<br>Operative training with contractor | 0 |
| | **Team/tool box talks** | 1 | 1<br>Aware'ns raising | 10 talks<br>5 bank/2 office/3 contractor | 2<br>35 bank/32 retail | 5<br>Bank staff | 7<br>Bank/office | 7<br>Bank/office | 10<br>Bank/office | 2<br>Sup'vsrs H&E Team |
| **Total days** | | 6 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 30 | 4 |
| CPD/training for heritage staff | **Heritage Adviser** | Yr 2 Cons Hist Env cse<br>EM Heritage Forums<br>Notts CO meetings | 2 days lime mortar<br>IHBC events- | 4 days various cses | 4 days various cses | **SE has no Heritage Adviser** | 2 | 6 days various cses | 2 days lime/brick work | Variousl day cses |
| | **H&E Manager** | EM Heritage Forums | **London has no H&E Manager** | - | - | 4 days various cses | - | On job training | On job training | Lime mortar- |
| | **Other** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | Yr 2 Archit Cons cse | Lime mortar. Boats seminar |

***Table 8. Heritage training in 2007/08***

*Live site conservation training at Audlem Lock, Shropshire Union Canal.*

# Consultants

Heritage consultants were occasionally used for works involving heritage assets; mainly for archaeological desk-based assessments or survey and recording of works; such as lock repairs on the scheduled Caen Hill flight, Kennet & Avon Canal. Consultants were also used again for practical heritage skills training, especially in brick repairs and lime mortars. The historic valve house at Rotton Park Reservoir, Birmingham was successfully repaired (partly as a live site training exercise) with an expert heritage consultant working alongside BW West Midlands construction team staff.

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Works undertaken by consultants | General advice | - | - | - | - | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | - |
| | Archaeology | - | - | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | - | - | ✓ |
| | Survey work | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Training | ✓ | ✓ | - | - | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Other tasks | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | ✓ |

***Table 9. Use of heritage consultants***

Other specialist heritage work carried out by consultants included; producing contract documents for repairs to Ellesmere Yard, Langollen Canal, cataloguing blacksmiths' tools at Norbury Yard Shropshire Union Canal and producing a conservation plan for Stoke Bruerne, Grand Union Canal.

*Consultant stone-mason repairing paddle stand block on the scheduled Bunbury Locks, Shropshire Union Canal.*

# Property

In 2005/06, 97 listed buildings were leased; in 2006/07 the number rose to 136 and in 2007/08 it rose again to 186. Seven business units reported that leases included restrictive covenants or clauses to protect heritage elements. During the year 16 buildings were sold, 15 of which were residential properties with heritage value (although not all listed).

| | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BW listed buildings leased out** | 7 | 22 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 54 | 43 |
| **Leases with restrictive covenants/clauses to protect heritage** | Not Known | 22 | 21 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 43 |

***Table 10. Managing leased heritage property***

*Left: Vesta Street Cottage, Manchester. Right: Former Jacobean style electricity works, Lincoln.*

Heritage assets in 2007/08 were affected in different ways by property development activity. In accordance with BW's operating instructions, assessments were undertaken for development sites containing heritage assets. These included Enfield Wharf (Leeds & Liverpool Canal), the White House, Newark (Trent Navigation), Aldcliffe Road (Lancaster Canal), Swan Meadow Road, Wigan (Leeds & Liverpool Canal) and Brayford Wharf, Lincoln, where a former electricity works was assessed as not being worthy of retention; an assessment confirmed by English Heritage following their own inspection.

Two sites where heritage has featured as part of the wider development are the ISIS site at Vesta Street, Manchester (Ashton Canal) where a former lock cottage has been carefully converted to office use, and the Wakefield Waterfront site (Calder & Hebble Navigation) where the Navigation Warehouse is undergoing high quality repair and adaptation for re-use. Other sensitive sites for which appropriate developments were progressed in 2007/08 included the former canal yard at Finsley Gate (Leeds & Liverpool Canal) and the Roundhouse in Birmingham (Birmingham Canal).

# Restorations

Although BW withdrew from the Cotswold Canals Partnership in February 2008, restoration activity continued to progress throughout the year on the Bow Back Rivers in London, the Liverpool Canal Link along Liverpool's historic waterfront, the Manchester, Bolton & Bury Canal in Greater Manchester and the Droitwich Canals in Worcestershire.

The Droitwich Junction & Barge Canals restoration saw the most significant heritage activity and archaeological recording of the built environment of the canal was a condition of the planning permission that was granted in 2007/08. By April 2008 this recording work, which was carried out by a group of skilled volunteers supervised by a qualified archaeologist and the project heritage adviser, was largely complete.

*Left: archaeological trial pit on Droitwich Junction Canal realignment site. Right: a volunteer learning traditional masonry skills.*

Archaeological evaluation took place near Hanbury to the east of Droitwich, where trial trenching was dug on the site of the realignment of the Junction Canal and physical works specifically affecting the canal's heritage were undertaken at Salwarpe. Here, following archaeological recording, an unusual weir was cleaned and repaired by volunteers as part of a programme to train them in traditional brickwork and masonry skills.

During the year consultation with English Heritage took place in connection with the refurbishment of the Barge Lock, which stands in the middle of the Vines Park Scheduled Monument in Droitwich. This work includes the addition of a 600mm by-pass pipe, which has potential for significant archaeological impacts in an area of former brine extraction dating back to the pre-Roman period. Major works that have been planned in 2007/08 will take place next year and the restoration project is due to be completed by the end of 2009.

# Publicity

Publicity for BW heritage activity was widespread in 2007/08. The Waterways Trust/BURA Waterway Renaissance Awards resulted in BW winning two out of 10 categories; the Design and Construction award for Keadby Lock (Stainforth & Keadby Canal) and the Historic Environment award for Stourport Basins. A separate Award for Outstanding Achievement was also made to Stourport Forward and BW for the work of transforming the townscape of Stourport.

*Keadby Lock, Stainforth & Keadby Canal, won a Waterway Renaissance Award in 2007/08.*

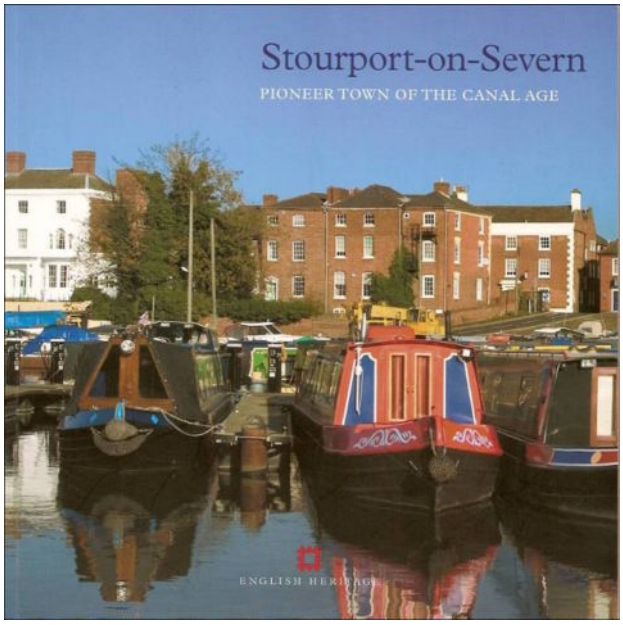
Various heritage open days and events were run in 2007/08. Historic waterway sites at Caen Hill, Bradford on Avon, Foxton, Leeds, Stourport and London were opened to the public during the summer of 2007. In Scotland a steam 'Puffer' visited the Forth & Clyde Canal to mark the anniversary of the launch of the first vessel of this type, at Maryhill in 1857. The Heritage Open Day at Whaley Bridge transhipment warehouse, on the Peak Forest Canal attracted over 200 people, with over 100 taking part in guided tours of the warehouse, led by the local BW heritage adviser.

Six out of nine business units were represented on the regional Heritage Environment Forums (HEF) in 2006/07; up one from a year ago, and BW's London, West Midlands, Yorkshire and South East business units featured in the regional *Heritage Counts 2007* publications.

BW's historic estate also featured in the Government Historic Estates Unit *Biennial Report 2005-2007* where it was reported that amongst 24 publicly owned estates only BW and the Ministry of Defence have defined programmes in place to reduce numbers of Buildings at Risk.

| | | East Mids | London | North West | Scotland | South East | South West | Wales & Border C'ties | West Mids | Yorks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type of publicity | Local press/radio | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ~- | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | National press/radio | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | External presentations | ~- | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ~- |
| | Heritage media events | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | - | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Heritage open days/activities at shows | | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | - | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Representation on regional Historic Environment Forum | | ✓ | ✓ | Membership requested | ✓ | Not at present- | ✓ | Not at present | ✓ | ✓ |

***Table 11. Publicity and participation***



*Left: in 2007 English Heritage and BW produced a book celebrating the regeneration of Stourport. Right: Chief Executives of BW (Robin Evans, centre left) and English Heritage (Simon Thurley, centre right) inspect the Bow Back Rivers in June 2007.*

There was generally positive coverage of BW heritage activity in local, national and waterway press in 2007/08 with *Waterways World*, and *Canals & Rivers* magazines featuring heritage items and the newspaper *Towpath Talk* running a series covering the work of the BW West Midlands heritage adviser in particular. In May 2007 a feature on how BW manages the historic environment of the waterways was published in *Context,* the journal of the IHBC; the UK's professional institute for the built heritage conservation sector.

# Pressures

Fundamental pressures affecting heritage at BW are both positive and negative. The positives reflect the good progress that BW has made in raising its game on heritage management over the past three years.

Negatives include the common theme of limited resources and also, particularly towards the latter end of the year, the pressure to apply minimum safety standards across the BW network. Seven out of nine waterway business units regarded the need to balance heritage with safety as a significant, time-consuming pressure that was in danger of harming relationships with local authorities. Correspondingly, the bureaucracy of the existing heritage protection system was also viewed as a pressure.

In 2007/08, unlike 2006/07, commercial activity was not regarded as being a significant negative pressure affecting heritage. This improvement owes much to enhanced management systems (especially by BW's Property Development North team) and a revised internal operating instruction covering heritage assessments for property disposals and developments.

Positive Pressures

1. Good support from senior management.
2. Well motivated heritage advisers.
3. Stakeholder interest and pressure.

Negative Pressures

1. Minimum Safety Standards deadlines.
2. Regulatory bureaucracy.
3. Limited funding & resources.

The formation in late 2007 of the British Waterways Advisory Forum (BWAF) heritage sub group, has increased the profile of heritage amongst external partners and stakeholders and is helping to establish a network of heritage experts who can assist BW from time to time with special skills and knowledge.

BW continues to develop the concept of heritage partnership agreements, which remain embedded in the Draft Heritage Protection Bill (April 2008) that is presently being scrutinised by Parliament and upon which BW has commented at length. The new legislation should also streamline the existing protection system and make it more efficient and transparent and this will be welcomed by BW.